



South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Notes - Meeting # 9

Date: May 11 (9:00 am – 7:00 pm), May 12 (8:30 am – 5:30 pm), and May 13 (8:30-1:00 pm) 2010

Place/Time: The Heritage Inn & Convention Centre, High River, AB

Next Meeting: June 22 and 23, Medicine Hat, AB

Attendees: Regional Advisory Council (RAC):

Jay Bartsch, Stanley Church, Lisa Fox, Colin Jeffares, Wolf Keller, John Kerkhoven, Georgina Knitel, Leah Lawrence, Gord Lehn, Hugh Lynch-Staunton, Ron McMullin, Ralph Nelson, Daniel Smith, John Squarek, Bill Szabon, Kevin Van Tighem

Regional Planning Team (RPT):

Glen Tjostheim, Doug Olson, Judy May-McDonald, Andrea Dorrans, Carolyn Johnson, Leif Olson, Andrew Bjorn, Sarah Pasemko, Rob McManus, Darryl Johnson, Hugh Norris, Justin Ellis, Heather Sinton, Barry Adams, Rob Dunn, Dave McGee, Bill Symonds, Olimpia Pantelimon, Kevin Williams

Lunch Guests:

Councillor Don Moore of High River (May 11); Reeve Larry Spilak of the MD of Foothills (May 12)

Day One

Introduction

South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Chair, Colin Jeffares, welcomed RAC members and called the meeting to order. Mr. Jeffares reflected on the previous meeting where RAC members decided on an agenda that reflected more ownership of the advice that would be put forward to Cabinet. In moving forward, the Regional Planning Team (RPT) presented RAC with a series of advice sheets to review and provide comments on. Before the advice sheets were addressed, Rob McManus of O2 Planning & Design reviewed the May 11th – 13th meeting notes and minutes and added amendments as necessary. Mr. McManus then clarified the agenda and review process for the next two days including the two main objectives of the meeting:

1. Review and feedback on advice sheets
2. Review and discussion of valued landscaped modelling results



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Overview and Feedback on Advice Sheets – facilitated by Rob McManus

The following topics were discussed by the RAC on day one:

- Topic #2: tourism and recreation – effective management of recreational use of public lands
- Topic #3: high value recreation and tourism areas and approaches to maintaining integrity of those areas
- Topic #4: the Castle and Crowsnest Pass
- Topic #6: regional recreation and tourism infrastructure enhancements to meet growing and changing demands
- Topic #7: conservation of native terrestrial biodiversity
- Topic #8: grasslands
- Topic #9: development needs and healthy communities.

Presentation on Mitigation Banking – Gord Lehn

RAC member Gord Lehn provided a dinner presentation to the RAC on the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference he attended in Austin, Texas, May 3-6. Mr. Lehn outlined approaches to mitigation and conservation banking being developed in the U.S. He outlined his views on potential applications or opportunities for this approach in Alberta.

Closing: 8:30 pm

Day Two

Introduction

Mr. McManus and Judy May-McDonald (also of O2) provided an overview on the previous days work on the advice sheets, and checked off which topics were moved into a second or third draft for revisions. The goal of the day two agenda was to complete review and feedback on the remaining advice sheets.

Overview and Feedback on Advice Sheets – facilitated by Rob McManus

The RAC reviewed and provided feedback on the following topics:

- Topic #5: the Canadian Badlands
- Topic #11: energy industry



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- Topic #12: agriculture industry
- Topic #13: forestry industry
- Topic #16: headwaters protection
- Topic #17: source water protection and watershed integrity
- Topic #18: wetland and riparian areas management
- Topic #19: groundwater vulnerability and management
- Topic #20: aquatic biodiversity

Closing: 5: 30pm

Day Three

Introduction

Mr. McManus opened the day three meeting by reviewing the advice sheet progress. He noted that RAC had not completed the review of the biodiversity advice sheet (#7). It was to be addressed following Doug Olson's (O2) discussion on valued landscapes. There was also a brief conversation on topic #10: aboriginal communities.

Valued Landscape Modelling Discussion – Doug Olson

Mr. Olson presented a series of maps generated for the valued landscape modelling. He reviewed the genesis of the maps and requested RAC feedback regarding the clarity, value, and if the maps provided adequate information to inform recommendations, as well as to align with advice sheets for Cabinet. A lengthy and productive discussion ensued regarding the land-use classifications, weighting system and identification of land-use priorities. The next steps to this process would be to organize layers of the map for review at the June RAC meeting. This will enable RAC members to provide comments on the individual layers, which inform the comprehensive valued landscape map for the SSRP.

The last item on the agenda for day three revisited and addressed topic #7: conservation of native terrestrial biodiversity.

Closing: 12:00pm

Deliverables

- The RPT will take the feedback the RAC provided on each of the advice sheets and draft new versions for the next meeting in June.
- A contextual piece will be designed as an introduction to the vision document, which will encompass overarching considerations for all advice sheets.



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- The next step in the valued landscape modelling process will involve the organization of an exercise for RAC members at a future meeting.
- The RAC requested GOA extend its mandate until December 31, 2010. Therefore, three more RAC meetings were tentatively added to the schedule to occur within this timeframe.
- The RPT will request presentations for the next RAC meeting on market based instruments and tools, as well as conservation tools.
- The next RAC meeting is scheduled for June 22 and 23 in Medicine Hat.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.